

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated August 21, 2006, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by November 21, 2006.

Claims 8, 9, and 11-17 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 8, 9, 11-15, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,469,844 to Iwase et al.

The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claim 16.

In the present amendment, claims 8 and 14 have been amended to more clearly define the present invention over the cited patent to Iwase. Specifically, claims 8 and 14 now define that "*a lower surface of the holding edge (4) is directed away from the curved surface (2) and is disposed in a plane with the plane surface (3)*".

The Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 8 and 14, along with their respective dependent claims, are also allowable over Iwase, since Iwase fails to show or suggest this newly added feature. When establishing obviousness under Section 103, it is not pertinent whether the prior art device possess the functional characteristics of the claimed invention, if the reference does not describe or suggest its structure. *In re Mills*, 16 USPQ 2d 1430, 1432-33 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

Also in this amendment, claim 11 was canceled, and claim 13 was amended to depend on claim 9.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8, 9 11-15, and 17 also are patentable over the cited art. The Applicants further request withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims as herein amended.

In light of the foregoing amendments and arguments in support of patentability, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

/ Michael J. Striker /

Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No.: 27233
103 East Neck Road
Huntington, New York 11743
631-549-4700